



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

17 August 1982

DIA review completed.

NGA Review  
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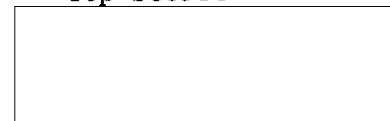
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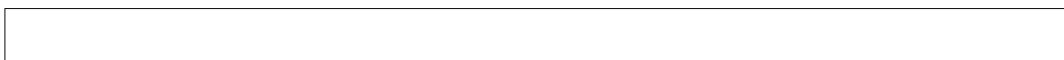
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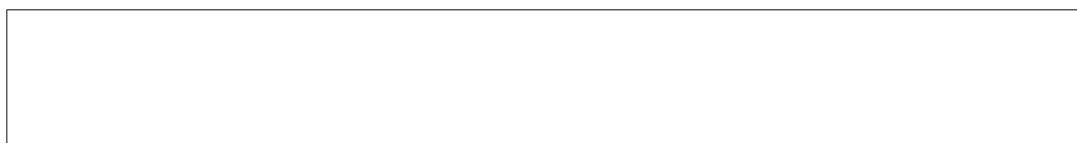
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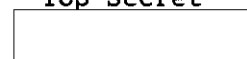
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## ISRAEL-LEBANON: Israeli and Syrian Deployments

(Information as of 2330 EDT)

*Beirut remained generally quiet yesterday, although Israeli radio claimed Palestinians fired on Israeli positions around Beirut airport. The presence of additional Israeli forces in Lebanon has not been confirmed, and the Syrians continue to maintain some 36,000 troops in Lebanon. The Syrians repeated their position that their forces will not leave Lebanon under Israeli pressure.*

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//Although Tel Aviv ordered additional troops to Lebanon last week, Israeli forces there probably still number about 39,000.

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signs of an impending Israeli buildup around Jazzin last week. Despite these indications of large numbers of additional Israeli forces in Lebanon, their presence has not been confirmed.//

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//Israeli troops in the Beirut-Junyah area number approximately 18,000 and can be rapidly reinforced by the 7,000 Israelis deployed along the Beirut-Damascus highway east of Alayh.

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//Syria has approximately 36,000 troops in Lebanon, most of whom are opposite Israeli positions.//

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//Most are deployed in the Bekaa Valley, and 7,000 reportedly are in the Ras al Matn area. These units are reinforced by major elements of a mechanized and an armored division in the border area.//

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//Since 1976, Damascus also has maintained several commando regiments and tank battalions in northern Lebanon, primarily in the Tripoli-Al Batrun area. They have served to protect Palestinian and pro-Syrian Christian forces from the Phalange.//

//Palestinian forces in the north reportedly number less than 1,000 and are located primarily in refugee camps in Tripoli. There also are at least 5,000 Palestinian fighters in the Bekaa Valley.//

Comment: //Israel probably reinforced its positions around Beirut last week to convince the Palestinians that it was prepared to use force to end the impasse. The reported buildup in the southern Bekaa Valley, however, raises the possibility of renewed fighting with the Syrians. Tel Aviv has demanded that all Syrian forces withdraw from Lebanon and probably is preparing to achieve this objective by force if diplomacy fails.//

//Israeli forces are aligned to deliver a crushing blow to Syrian units deployed in the Bekaa Valley and Ras al Matn. Israel's supremacy in the air and occupation of the high ground leave the Syrians in an almost untenable military position. By attacking simultaneously from the west and south under heavy air cover, Israel could quickly push the Syrians out of the Bekaa Valley.//

//Israeli forces could then drive as far north as al Hirmil virtually unopposed. Al Batrun and Tripoli could be easily seized by an amphibious operation. Israeli casualties probably would be low.//

#### Syrian Statement

A high-level Phalange delegation visited Damascus yesterday for talks with Foreign Minister Khaddam. Following the visit, Damascus radio broadcast a statement repeating Syria's longstanding position that its forces are in Lebanon legitimately and will not be withdrawn under Israeli pressure.

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The statement made no mention of Syrian forces in Beirut, which are expected to redeploy within Lebanon once the PLO evacuation begins. It also did not repeat Syria's established position that its forces would only withdraw entirely from Lebanon if the Arab League requested such a move. Instead, it said Syrian forces could be withdrawn when the Lebanese agree. [ ]

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#### Israeli Inflation

Consumer prices in Israel rose 9.2 percent in July, bringing inflation for the first seven months of the year to an annual rate of 133 percent. [ ]

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Comment: //Although the government denied that the invasion was a major factor, the high increase in July--a seasonally low month--is due in large part to steps taken by Finance Minister Aridor to finance the invasion. These measures include an increase in the value-added tax and large subsidy cuts that boosted the prices of government-controlled commodities. Little adverse public reaction is likely.// [ ]

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USSR-POLAND: Brezhnev and Jaruzelski Confer

TASS described the meeting yesterday between Soviet President Brezhnev and Polish Premier Jaruzelski in the Crimea as "cordial" and demonstrating their "complete identity of views" on both bilateral relations and international affairs. Brezhnev reportedly assured the Polish leader the USSR "will continue to give whatever assistance it can" to Poland. The two leaders warned that the US imposition of economic sanctions would prove to be a "boomerang," and Jaruzelski blamed the slow pace of Polish recovery on a "counterrevolutionary underground" inspired and supported by the US. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The unusually positive description of the atmosphere of the talks suggests the Soviets are more encouraged now by Jaruzelski's handling of the Polish situation than they were when they met with him in March. They evidently reminded him, however, that their ability to provide economic aid is limited by their own difficulties. Jaruzelski's visit was part of the Soviet President's customary summer schedule of talks with East European party leaders, but because of Brezhnev's uncertain health, the decision to receive Jaruzelski may have been made at the last minute. [REDACTED]

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IRAQ-IRAN: Warning to Merchant Ships

//Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over the weekend took advantage of the continuing lull in the fighting to warn that the Iraqi Air Force was prepared to repeat its attacks on merchant ships, including tankers, using Iranian ports. He also hinted Iraq might attack additional vital targets in Iran that it has avoided up to now.

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Comment: //Such attacks in the past have had little impact on Iranian shipping or oil exports. Moreover, the attacks may prompt the Iranians to launch retaliatory strikes against Iraqi shipping. Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti ports where most Soviet and East European military supplies to Iraq arrive would be less likely.//

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EC-US: Council President's Visit

//Danish Foreign Minister Olesen, whose country currently has the presidency of the EC Council of Ministers, begins discussions in Washington today aimed at easing tensions between the US and the EC. Although Olesen reportedly will discuss the US-EC steel dispute, he has no authority to negotiate. Olesen also will want to discuss the Siberian pipeline embargo, the situation in the Middle East and Lebanon, and US-Danish relations.//

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Comment: //Olesen, as chief political spokesman for the Community, will present the Ten's perspective on US-EC relations. Moreover, he probably will claim his viewpoint is impartial because Denmark is not directly affected by either the steel or the pipeline disputes. On the Middle East, Olesen wants to ensure close consultation in order to avoid potential misunderstandings over US and Community policies. He is likely to emphasize the need for closer and more regular US-EC contact and to ask for an invitation to visit Washington for Danish Prime Minister Joergensen, who will chair the next EC summit in December.//

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